



Ascension PCA

November 7, 2021



A community of worshipping, maturing,
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father,
by the power of His Spirit,
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.

A WORD ABOUT OUR LITURGY

The elements and sequence that make up our worship service (the liturgy) is the way we tell ourselves, one another, and all in this place, the grand story of the Triune God: the story of God pursuing a people despite their wanderings and forgetfulness, and shaping them into His people for His glory.



QUIETING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*If you are a child of God,
you don't lose your status if you have a bad week.*

~ Timothy Keller

*Child of God, you cost Christ too much
for Him to forget you.*

~ Charles Spurgeon

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

We gather at the invitation of God through His Word.
He speaks first, revealing Himself to us,
and we respond with one voice in joy and thanksgiving!

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 4,5

M: Worthy are You, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for You created all things,
and by Your will they existed and were created.

P: **Worthy are You to take the scroll
and open its seals,
for You were slain,
and by Your blood You ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language
and people and nation,
and You have made them a kingdom
and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth...
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honor
and glory and blessing!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(in unison)

P: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Triune God,
we praise You, we worship You, we adore You.
You hold the heavens in Your hand;
all stars rejoice in Your glory.
You come in the sunrise
and bless the splendor of the noonday.
The stars in their courses magnify You;
day and night tell of Your glory.**

...

**Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of Your majesty.
You satisfy all things living with Your abundance,
and our hearts bow at Your presence.**

**Accept us we pray,
for we are Your children, adopted through Jesus,
hear our prayers, receive our praise,
glorify Yourself, and build Your church. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

**I sing the mighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command,
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His Word
and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how Your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below
but makes Your glories known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow,
by order from Your throne.**

**While all that borrows life from You
is ever in Your care,
And everywhere that man can be,
You, God, are present there.**

Lord, for Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory
We sing Your praises,
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory,
Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You
All of our days!**

***We lift our hands,
We lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are
in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts,
We live our lives for You,
We offer all we are
for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father,
We are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory,
We have been chosen.
We lay down all we have
Here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands,
We lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are
in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts,
We live our lives for You,
We offer all we are,
We offer all we have,
We offer all our lives
for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann & Grant Cunningham (1998)
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GOD CLEANSSES US

We gather each week as sinners in constant need of His mercy. The corporate confession of sin acknowledges this and invites honest expression before God. However, God isn't silent as we cry out to Him — He assures us that His grace is bigger than our sin. God's forgiveness is for all those who humble themselves before Him in Christ Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 15:10-21

¹⁰ Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.

¹¹ The LORD said, "Have I not set you free for their good? Have I not pleaded for you before the enemy in the time of trouble and in the time of distress?" ¹² Can one break iron, iron from the north, and bronze?

¹³ "Your wealth and your treasures I will give as spoil, without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory. ¹⁴ I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in My anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In Your forbearance take me not away;
know that for Your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and Your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by Your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because Your hand was upon me,
for You had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Will You be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

19

Therefore thus says the LORD:
"If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before Me.
If you utter what is precious,
and not what is worthless,
you shall be as My mouth.

20

They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.

21

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father,

**We confess that we do not live up to
the family name.**

**We are more ready to resent than to forgive,
more ready to manipulate than to serve,
more ready to fear than to love,
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,
more ready to compete than to help.**

**We do not love one another as we should,
because we do not believe
that You love us as You do.**

Forgive our unbelief.

**Show us what it cost You to give up Your Son
that we might become Your sons and daughters.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
our righteousness.
Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*In these moments, we confess our personal sins to God
so that we may take hold of the forgiveness
won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 3:18a

M: For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the Righteous for the unrighteous,
that He might bring us to God...

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
In darkest places I will call,
Incline Your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,
Take courage in His power to save,
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.**

*I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.*

***I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.***

**Now He has come to make a way,
And God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You,
I will wait for You
Through the storm
and through the night.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You,
For Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Holy Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a crucial means of growing and comforting God's people and awakening people to new faith in Jesus.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

1 John 2:28 – 3:10

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now,

and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as he is.³ And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.⁶ No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him.⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous.⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Children of God”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Children of the Heavenly Father

**Children of the Heavenly Father,
Safely in His bosom gather.
Nestling bird nor star in heaven,
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

**More secure is no one ever,
Than the loved ones of the Savior.
Not yon star on high abiding,
Nor the bird in home-nest hiding.**

Words by Carolina Sandell-Berg (1855); translated by Ernst W. Olson.
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Swedish folk melody: PUBLIC DOMAIN

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is a meal for the family of God, given by Jesus the night before His death to be celebrated until His return. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of King, and spiritually nourishes us for today as we eat and drink in faith.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**P: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sits on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

PRAYER | MEDITATION

GOD SENDS US

We end by receiving God's promises to us as His people.
He will be with us as we serve Him in this world,
to the end of all time.

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

Meeting Address:

8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

(425) 286-8617

office@ascension-pca.org

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@ascension-pca.org*

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

Rev. Edward Volz *volz.edw@gmail.com*

PASTORAL INTERNS:

Austin Clement *clement.austin@gmail.com*

Philip Suh *philipsuh@outlook.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

Brett Chase *brett@ascension-pca.org*

Bob Miller *bob@ascension-pca.org*

Bo Stocklin *bostocklin@ascension-pca.org*

Chris Sledge *chris@ascension-pca.org*

Theo Vander Wel *theo@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

Peter Contreras *peter@ascension-pca.org*

Fred Wilson *fred@ascension-pca.org*

Kyle Bartlett *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Leandra Howell *leandra.m.howell@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

Sheila Bloedow *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Rebecca Wheeler *dieseltheboxer@hotmail.com*

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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.